

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 20 (Canceled)

Claim 21 (Previously amended) A stent having first and second ends with an intermediate section therebetween, the stent further having a longitudinal axis, and both an unexpanded and expanded configuration comprising:

(a) a plurality of longitudinally disposed struts, wherein each strut defines a wave along the longitudinal axis; the spatial frequency of the wave associated with each of the struts being different in a first end region lying proximate to one of said ends in comparison to the spatial frequency of the wave in the intermediate section; and

(b) a plurality of links for maintaining the struts in a tubular structure;  
wherein said frequency is greater in said first end region.

Claim 22 (Currently amended) A stent having first and second ends with an intermediate section therebetween and a longitudinal axis, and both an unexpanded and expanded configuration, said stent comprising:

said unexpanded configuration ~~comprises~~ comprising a plurality of longitudinally disposed wave-shaped struts; and

a plurality of circumferential links for maintaining the longitudinal disposed wave-shaped struts in a tubular structure at a plurality of locations along said strut, wherein at least one of said ~~strut~~ struts is connected to an adjacent said strut by a separate link, each of said link links being axially displaced from any other circumferentially adjacent link.